

## Eddie Sleeper

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**From:** Bill Houghton <bhoughton01@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 15, 2018 8:00 PM  
**To:** bhoughton01@icloud.com; Eddie Sleeper  
**Subject:** Vote No HB 5870

Dear Representatives on the Tax Policy Committee:

The RTA is not the only regional taxing authority we have in Southeast Michigan without opt outs.

Other examples include the Detroit Institute of Arts, the Detroit Zoo, the Cobo Authority, and the Great Lakes Water Authority. These regional efforts work because the entire region participates. We also need to pay for things that society relies on such as education, senior services and infrastructure. Transit is no different.

An effective and efficient transit system that brings value to all, including those who benefit indirectly, cannot work when based upon a Swiss cheese map.

Just imagine I-75 or 94 with opt outs — it would add very little value to the region.

So instead of working to destroy the RTA by allowing opt outs, I ask that you vote no on HB 5870 and work with the RTA to address the areas you feel need to be improved or introduce legislation that allows the RTA to fund the plan with alternative taxing methods, which are not solely dependent upon property taxes, such as a gas tax, a hotel tax, utility tax or sin taxes.

A few key points to consider when debating this destructive bill:

- Our lives don't end at our township's borders, why should our transit system?
- Southeast Michigan is aging and many people need to retire from driving. We need a region-wide system to ensure our elders have freedom to go to the store or doctor they choose, even across a city or county border.
- Just as Oak Park and Pleasant Ridge weren't allowed to opt-out of having I-696 built through their towns, in the name of regional efficiencies, no towns should opt-out of transit either.
- Transit systems cannot make prudent multi-year investments if they don't know what town may opt-out any given year.
- Just like everyone in the region provides support to the Metro Parks system, even those who don't use them, everyone should invest in region-wide transit that benefits our whole region.

Please read the plan:

<http://www.connectsoutheastmichigan.org/proposed-plan/>

Regards,  
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Sent from my iPhone